Amendments to the Abstract

Please **add** the following Abstract to this application.

-- A Video-on-Demand Server architecture ~~(100, 200, 300)~~ transmits a plurality of pre-coded programs having different bit rates across a fixed bandwidth channel ~~(11)~~. For each program, a generator ~~(12₀-12ₚ₋₁, 110, 210)~~ generates a plurality of different bit rate representations for each program. Each generator also provides control information at each of a plurality of successive time windows T for each bit rate representation. The control information provides a bit rate and a quality measure during each time window T. The control information enables a statistical multiplexer ~~(16, 160, 260)~~ to select a bit rate representation for each program during each time window T to maximize the quality of the selected representations while not exceeding the total available channel capacity. --